



The City Of San Diego  
**Councilmember Jim Madaffer**  
City Council District 7



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I'm sending this special eNewsletter from Sacramento where I am here attending a special board meeting of the League of California Cities and a meeting with Governor Schwarzenegger.



The Governor announced earlier afternoon his support of a special statewide ballot measure for this November's General Election designed to protect local government. The ballot measure will constitutionally protect cities, counties and special districts so no longer will your local tax dollars be stolen by the Legislature just so they can balance the State budget at the expense of our neighborhoods.

The Governor spoke today before Mayors, Councilmembers, Supervisors, Fire Chiefs and Police Chiefs. The Governor said today "I pledge to you that I will hard for you to get this plan through the legislature . . . We will send together a very clear message - the message is that we must protect local government and that must protect local services no matter what - and that the state has to stop ripping you off!"

More in a moment . . .

If you are new to our eNewsletter, welcome! Many people have recently been added to the list by contacting my office or having joined from our website. [Please click this link and update your preferences so we can send you the most relevant information.](#)

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## **Stop the State Raids on Local Government**

By Jim Madaffer

\$350 million dollars. Ever wonder what services the City could provide if it had an extra \$350 million? New fire trucks? Fire stations? Police cars? Not to mention more police and firefighters to protect our City. How about filling a few potholes or

more than paying back the pension fund? Sadly, the \$350 million represents the amount of money the State has siphoned from the City of San Diego since 1994. The State of California has used cities and counties to balance its budget far too long. Finally, an agreement is in the making to ensure that those funds regularly stolen by the State will remain in San Diego.

The California League of Cities and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger have worked tirelessly in achieving a compromise where the cities, counties, special districts and redevelopment agencies will assist in balancing the State's budget shortfall over the next two years and in return receive constitutional protection from ever being raided by the State again.

You may wonder why local jurisdictions would step up by contributing a gargantuan \$1.3 billion statewide in Fiscal Years 2005 and 2006 to help a fledgling state budget gone awry from overspending and mismanagement. The answer: we can't afford not to. The State already planned to take \$14.76 million from the City of San Diego's General Fund, \$5.2 million in booking fees; \$3.25 million from local streets and roads, and the list goes on. It is unlikely this practice of feeding off of the local trough would ever end without these negotiated long-term protections for vital government services like police, fire, parks, libraries, road repairs, community service centers and more.

While these short-term sacrifices would undoubtedly impact us here at home, the long-term protections would provide much-needed fiscal stability at the local level and ensure we can continue funding the critical local services upon which our residents rely.

The Governor has pledged his strong leadership in moving such a package through the legislature, and ultimately helping pass a constitutional reform measure on this November's statewide ballot. For the first time in decades, local government leaders have an active seat at the table, and are negotiating with a Governor who appears serious about solving the fiscal imbalance between state and local government.

The next step is where you come in. I would encourage all San Diego residents to ask our members of the Legislature to support the Governor's plan. Taxpayers have a right in saying where their tax dollars should be spent and they can start by

demanding that those dollars remain in local coffers and spent within their communities. Our public safety and quality of life depend on it.

Madaffer is a San Diego City Councilmember and the City of San Diego's representative on the Board to the League of California Cities. He has been working for several years with County partners and Special Districts to create a ballot measure designed to stabilize local government funding.

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## How you can help

You can let your Assemblymember and State Senator know how you feel - ask them to support the Governor and the City of San Diego in help solving the state's fiscal crisis. You can email them by clicking on their names in the following links. In fact, email each of them - I'm sure they'd be pleased to know how you feel.

### State Senators:

**Denise Ducheny** (South San Diego, Chula Vista, National City)  
[senator.ducheny@sen.ca.gov](mailto:senator.ducheny@sen.ca.gov)

**Dede Alpert** ( La Jolla, Pacific Beach, Mission Beach, Ocean Beach, Point Loma, Coronado, part of Imperial Beach, Mira Mesa, Tierrasanta, Clairemont, Linda Vista, Hillcrest, North Park, Old Town and downtown San Diego )  
[senator.alpert@sen.ca.gov](mailto:senator.alpert@sen.ca.gov)

**Bill Morrow** ( Carlsbad, Encinitas, Escondido, Oceanside, San Marcos, Solana Beach, Fairbanks Ranch, Rancho Santa Fe, Hidden Meadows, Bonsall, Vista and parts of San Diego)  
[senator.morrow@sen.ca.gov](mailto:senator.morrow@sen.ca.gov)

**Dennis Hollingsworth** (Eastern parts of San Diego County)  
[senator.hollingsworth@sen.ca.gov](mailto:senator.hollingsworth@sen.ca.gov)

### Assembly Members:

**Mark Wyland** ( Vista, Carlsbad, Escondido, Encinitas, San Marcos, Solana Beach, San Diego, Del Mar, Oceanside )  
[assemblymember.wyland@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.wyland@assembly.ca.gov)

**George Plescia** ( San Diego, Escondido, Poway )  
[assemblymember.plescia@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.plescia@assembly.ca.gov)

**Christine Kehoe** (Central San Diego)  
[assemblymember.kehoe@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.kehoe@assembly.ca.gov)

**Jay LaSuer** ( El Cajon, La Mesa, Santee, San Diego )  
[assemblymember.LaSuer@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.LaSuer@assembly.ca.gov)

**Shirley Horton** ( San Diego, Chula Vista, Lemon Grove )  
[assemblymember.horton@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.horton@assembly.ca.gov)

**Juan Vargas** (South San Diego, Chula Vista, National City)  
[assemblymember.vargas@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.vargas@assembly.ca.gov)

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### **The City Budget - Not a Pretty Picture**

I urge you and personally invite you to attend our District 7 Community Budget Forum on Wednesday evening May 26<sup>th</sup>, 6pm at San Diego State University. It is important for several reasons but I want to point out two items:

The first is that you'll have an opportunity to meet, talk with and hear from our new City Manager, Lamont Ewell. Already he has proven to be a decisive and take-charge person. This is an important time for the City of San Diego because of key issues that MUST be resolved. Lamont will share his vision for effectively managing the City during these tough and fiscally challenging times.

The second item is that these ARE tough times. We're facing a huge deficit to our City coffers and there is no alternative other than dealing with it head on. That means painful decisions must be made on cutting budgets, reducing services, eliminating positions and finding new ways of doing City business.

If you have questions and if you want to help in the decision making process then please plan to attend May 26th from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m at SDSU. There is plenty of FREE parking. Aztec Athletic Center Auditorium. My thanks to San Diego State University Foundation for sponsoring the event and to Sammy's Woodfired Pizza and Starbucks for providing refreshments. [Click here for a flyer with more information](#). For a [map and parking information, click on this link](#).

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## Happenings in the District

Spring is a busy time of year with many community events taking place throughout the District. I mentioned the Fox Canyon Hike on May 1. Let me share a few others.



**May 15** - The Kiwanis Club's 18th annual Patriot's Day Parade kicks off at 10am along Tierrasanta Boulevard in Tierrasanta. There will be marching bands, clowns, equestrian units, classic cars, dignitaries and military personnel in

recognition of Armed Forces Day. Events continue with a spaghetti dinner and fireworks display that evening. For more information call Dr. Hani Shatila at 858-268-0044.

**May 16** - The Del Cerro Action Council is having a picnic to thank all those who helped make the new Princess Del Cerro Park a reality. Certainly the DCAC, the community --- especially the many families with children, the Park and Recreation Department and I are very happy that the attractive park is finished and it is a good reason to celebrate. The picnic takes place from 2 until 5 p.m. and all are welcome. For more information, call my office at 616-236-6677.

**May 22** - Tierrasanta's library turns twenty this year and the Friends of the Library are celebrating. Congratulations to them for realizing their dream of raising \$20,000 in one year in honor of the anniversary. The Friends recently presented a check to the library's manager, Judith Castiano. The funds will be used for children's programs and for books. Join the celebration from 3 until 4:30 p.m. at the library which is located at 4985 La Cuenta Boulevard. There will be live music, refreshments, door prizes and a silent auction. For more information call the library at 858-573-1384.

**May 22** - Kumeyaay Elementary School will hold its annual Spring Fling Dinner Dance. The Theme is Casino Night II. There will be casino tables, a sit-down dinner, dancing as well as silent

and live auctions. All of the proceeds go directly to the schools student enrichment programs including the music, art, science and technology programs. For more information call the school at 858-279-1022.

**May 22** – If you have never been to Mission Trails Regional Park then you'll love Explore Mission Trails Day. It's free and it's a fun way to discover all that the park has to offer. There will be activities and programs all day long such as wagon rides, arts and crafts, musical concerts, storytelling, guided nature walks, mountain biking demonstrations and more. I'm proud to join the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation and the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department in sponsoring this event. [For more information, visit the Mission Trails Regional Park website by clicking on this link.](#)

**June 5** – Mark the date for the 12th annual International Village Celebration (IVC) in City Heights. The theme is Around the World in a Day.

I wish I could include every single community event but unfortunately I have to limit it to a few each issue. We welcome submissions. For upcoming event you would like to see in the next eNewsletter, please email information to [Leslie Webb](#).

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Thanks for reading our eNewsletter!

Best regards,

Jim.

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If you know someone who might enjoy receiving this email, you can send them their own copy - [simply click on this link](#).

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